

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program

This information applies to the meal pattern for grades K-12 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). For information on the ASP meal pattern requirements and crediting foods for grades K-12, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Afterschool Snack Program Handbook](#) and [Menu Planning Guidance for Grades K-12 in the ASP](#), and visit the CSDE's [ASP](#) webpage.



Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that cannot credit in USDA's meal patterns for Child Nutrition Programs. They include foods and beverages in amounts too small to credit (i.e., less than the minimum creditable amount), and foods and beverages that do not belong to the meal pattern components. Examples include potato chips, pudding, ice cream, gelatin, cream cheese, bacon, condiments (e.g., syrup, jam, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and butter), and water. The chart on page 2 lists additional examples of noncreditable foods for grades K-12 in the ASP. This list is not all-inclusive.

School food authorities (SFAs) may serve noncreditable foods in addition to the meal components to add variety, help improve acceptability in the meal, and satisfy appetites. Examples include maple syrup on pancakes, salad dressing on tossed greens, and condiments such as ketchup or mustard on sandwiches and other entrees.

To ensure that ASP snacks meet children's nutritional needs, the CSDE encourages SFAs to use discretion when serving noncreditable foods. Noncreditable foods typically contain few nutrients and are higher in added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium. Menu planners should read labels, be aware of the ingredients in foods, and limit the frequency and amount of less nutritious choices.

Some noncreditable foods (such as candy, soda, coffee, tea, and sports drinks) cannot be sold in the ASP due to federal or state requirements. For more information, visit the CSDE's webpages, [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#).



Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Examples of noncreditable foods for grades K-12 in the ASP ¹

Almond milk ²	Hot chocolate ³
Bacon and bacon bits	Ice cream
Banana chips	Ice cream novelties
Bread products that are not whole grain or enriched	Ice milk
Butter	Iced coffee ³
Candy ³	Iced tea ³
Candy-coated popcorn ³	Jam and jelly
Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo ³	Lemonade ³
Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, iced) ³	Limeade ³
Commercial processed products without a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS), e.g., entrees, smoothies, and breaded vegetables ⁴	Maple syrup
Commercial smoothies that contain dietary or herbal supplements	Margarine
Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce	Marshmallows
Cranberry cocktail drink ³	Mayonnaise
Cream, half and half	Milk, low-fat (1%) flavored
Cream cheese	Milk, reduced fat (2%)
Cream soups, canned, e.g., cream of mushroom, cream of celery, cream of broccoli	Milk, whole
Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning	Mustard
Drinkable or squeezable yogurt	Nectar drinks ³
Eggnog ³	Nondairy milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²
Egg whites	Pickle relish
Frozen yogurt	Popsicles (not 100 percent juice)
Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix ³	Potato chips
Fruit leathers (100 percent fruit)	Probiotic dairy drinks
Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice) ³	Pudding
Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, twists	Pudding pops
Gelatin, regular and sugar free	Rice milk ²
Grain products that are not whole grain or enriched	Salad dressings
Honey	Sherbet
	Soda, regular and diet ³
	Soups, non-vegetable, canned, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice
	Sour cream

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Examples of noncreditable foods for grades K-12 in the ASP ¹, *continued*

Soy milk that does not meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes ²
Sports drinks, regular and diet ³
Spreadable fruit
Syrup

Tea, regular, herbal, iced ³
Tofu with less than 5 grams of protein in 2.2 ounces (weight) or ¼ cup (volume) ⁵
Water ⁶

- ¹ Snack foods sold a la carte must meet the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) (which apply to public school districts that participate in the healthy food option of [Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\)](#)) or the USDA [Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards (which apply to public school districts that do not participate in the healthy food option of HFC, and to private schools and residential child care institutions).
- ² Milk substitutes must meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs](#).
- ³ These competitive foods and beverages cannot be sold to students due to federal or state requirements. For more information, visit the CSDE's webpages, [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpages.
- ⁴ Commercial products without a CN label or PFS cannot credit in CACFP meals and snacks. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Using Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labels in the CACFP](#), [Using Product Formulation Statements in the CACFP](#), and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the CACFP](#); and visit the "Crediting Commercial Processed Products in CACFP Adult Day Care Centers" section of the CSDE's CACFP webpage.
- ⁵ For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP](#).
- ⁶ The [Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act \(HHFKA\)](#) requires that schools make drinking water available to children at no charge where meals are served during the meal service (including the ASP). However, SFAs cannot promote or offer water or any other beverage as an alternative selection to fluid milk throughout the food service area. For more information, see [USDA Memo SP 49-2016 and CACFP 18-2016: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) and [USDA Memo SP 19-2018: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs](#).

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Resources

Afterschool Snack Program (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Afterschool-Snack-Program>

Afterschool Snack Program Handbook (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/ASPHandbook.pdf>

Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/MealPatternASPgradesK-12.pdf>

Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/SpecDiet/MilkSubstitutesSNP.pdf>

Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Connecticut-Nutrition-Standards>

Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditCommercialMMASNP.pdf>

Crediting Deli Meats in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditDeliSNP.pdf>

Crediting Enriched Grains in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditEnrichedGrainsSNP.pdf>

Crediting Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP (“Documents/Forms” section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Afterschool-Snack-Program/Documents#CreditingFoodsGradesK12>

Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditTofuSNP.pdf>

Crediting Whole Grains in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CreditWholeGrainsSNP.pdf>

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Guide to Competitive Foods in HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/CompetitiveFoodsGuideHFC.pdf>

Guide to Competitive Foods in Non-HFC Public Schools (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/CompetitiveFoodsGuideNonHFC.pdf>

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP

Guide to Competitive Foods in Private Schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CompFoods/CompetitiveFoodsGuidePrivateRCCI.pdf>

Healthy Food Certification (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Healthy-Food-Certification>

Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/healthy-hunger-free-kids-act>

List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/List-of-Acceptable-Foods-and-Beverages>

Overview of the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern Requirements for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/OverviewASPMealPatternRequirements_gradesK-12.pdf

Menu Planning Resources for School Meals (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/MealPattern/MenuPlanResourcesSchools.pdf>

Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/MealPattern/ResourcesSchoolMealPatterns_gradesK-12.pdf

Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Smart-Snacks-Nutrition-Standards>

USDA Memo SP 08-2019, CACFP 02-2019 and SFSP 02-2019: Update of Food Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/update-food-crediting-child-nutrition-programs>

USDA Memo SP 19-2018: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Memos/OM2018/SP19-2018s.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 49-2016 and CACFP 18-2016: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources-making-potable-water-available-schools-and-child-care-facilities-0>

Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP



For more information, review the CSDE's *Afterschool Snack Program Handbook* and visit the CSDE's *Afterschool Snack Program* webpage, or contact the *school nutrition programs staff* in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/ASP/NoncreditableFoodsASP_gradesK-12.pdf.

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